

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ARA-06 TRSE-00 AID-05

/102 W

-----261123Z 122563 /11

P R 260755Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1698

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MO, CG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU INTERVIEW IN MOROCCAN PRESS

1. SUMMARY:IN INTERVIEW TO MOROCCAN CORRESPONDENT, MOBUTU THANKED MOROCCO FOR ITS HELP, REITERATED CHARGES OF SOVIET BACKING FOR THE SHABA INCURSION, AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO ZAIRE. HE HINTED AT CONCRETE RESULTS FROM SAUDI VISIT, AND ACCUSED MOZAMBIQUE AND "ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY" OF SENDING FORCES TO ANGOLA. MOBUTU APPEARED NOT TO RULE OUT HOT PURSUIT ONCE KATANGANS EXPELLED.

END SUMMARY.

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2. PRESIDENT MOBUTU GRANTED AN INTERVIEW TO SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN CORRESPONDENT IN KINSHASA PUBLISHED HERE APRIL 25. PARAPHRASED HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW FOLLOW:

3. THANKS TO MOROCCO: YOU GIVE ME THE OCCASION TO RENDER OFFICIALLY MY SOLEMN REGARDS TO KING HASSAN FOR THE GESTURE TOWARD MY PEOPLE WHICH HE HAS JUST MADE. HE IS A GREAT MAN, A

GREAT STATESMAN WHO IS TRYING TO SAVE AFRICA FROM DOMINATION BY CERTAIN POWERS WITH IDEOLOGICAL AIMS. VERY SOON - IT WILL NOT BE TOO LONG - I WILL GO PERSONALLY TO RABAT AND THANK HIM.

4. SOVIET ROLE: ZAIRE WAS ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST STABLE COUNTRIES. WHY DID THE USSR AND CUBA CHOOSE ZAIRE AS A TARGET? IN ORDER TO DESTABLIZE MY COUNTRY. OF ALL THE POWERS PRESENT IN ZAIRE OVER THE PAST 17 YEARS OF "COOPERATION," ONLY THE USSR HAS NOT INVESTED ONE ZAIRE IN ANYTHING. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE NUMBER OF CASES OF BOMBS, MUNITIONS AND ARMS WHICH HAVE BEEN SEIZED AND WHICH WERE OF SOVIET ORIGIN. HERE YOU HAVE A VERY CURIOUS CONCEPTION OF COOPERATION. THIS IS WHY I DECIDED THAT NO OTHER TRAINEES WILL GO TO THE SOVIET UNION. IF IT IS ONLY AN INTERNAL AFFAIR, WHY IS IT EMANATING ONLY FROM ACROSS THE ANGOLAN BORDER AND NOT ACROSS ZAIRE'S MANY OTHERS? ANGOLA'S CHIEF OF STATE IS ONLY A PAWN PLACED THERE BY THE USSR.

5. ROLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES: VIRTUALLY ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE WITH ZAIRE. THE FEW WHICH DISAPPOINTED ME AREN'T WORTH MENTIONING. THEY ARE A WEAK AND TOTALLY NEGLIGIBLE MINORITY. CERTAIN OF THEIR CHIEFS DARE NOT SAY EXACTLY WHAT THEY THINK, INSTEAD ATTACKING FRANCE RATHER THAN ZAIRE. FRANCE WAS NOT ONLY GENEROUS BUT COURAGEOUS IN ITS DECISION. FOUR ARAB STATES, NAMELY MOROCCO, EGYPT, SUDAN AND MAURITANIA SHOWED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH ZAIRE. BOURGUIBA ALSO SENT A WARM MESSAGE. ALSO COMFORTING WAS THE IMPORTANT DELEGATION WHICH SAUDI ARABIA SENT, A MISSION WHICH ENCOURAGED ME BY BOTH ITS FACT AND GESTURES WHICH I AM NOT ABLE TO MENTION HERE. THUS, IT HAS BEEN NOT ONLY UP TO THE AMERICANS, FRENCH AND BELGIANS TO HELP, BUT THERE WAS ARAB COOPERATION ALSO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. IT IS NOT YET THE MOMENT TO REVEAL DETAILS BUT THERE ARE TWO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT TROOPS TO THE OTHER SIDE. THIS WE KNOW FROM OUR INTELLIGENCE. AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT I WILL ANNOUNCE WHO THEY ARE (ONE IS MOZAMBIQUE AND ANOTHER IS A "PROGRESSIVE" WEST AFRICAN COUNTRY).

7. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT TAKE A POSITION SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OAU CHARTER WANT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS TO SEE THE OAU DIE. WE DID NOT TAKE THE QUESTION TO THE OAU NOR TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL BECAUSE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE USSR WOULD HAVE CREATED DISUNITY WITHIN THE RANKS OF THE AFRICAN FAMILY. IF WE WENT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, THE USSR WOULD EMPLOY ITS VETO. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE INFORMED THE LEADERS OF THOSE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO REGULARLY, BUT TO MAKE A FORMAL COMPLAINT WOULD SERVE NOTHING.

8. NIGERIAN MEDIATION: WE AWAIT THE VISIT OF THE NIGERIAN

FONMIN WHO IS ALREADY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE BUT IS AWAITING THE RETURN TO KINSHASA OF HIS ZAIRIAN COUNTERPART. IN ANY CASE, THERE IS ONE THING WHICH IS NOT AT ALL NEGOTIABLE: TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MY COUNTRY.

7. HOT PURSUIT: PRIMARY IN MY THINKING IS THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. ON THIS POINT I REMAIN INTRANSIGENT. AS TO WHETHER THIS ACT (OF AGGRESSION) WILL REMAIN UNPUNISHED, I BELIEVE THAT THAT IS ANOTHER KETTLE OF FISH (PAIRE DE MANCHES) IF YOU UNDERSTAND ME.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT02245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770145-0046
Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770418/aaaaapjd.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28891c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2691014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU INTERVIEW IN MOROCCAN PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, MO, CG, (MOBUTO SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28891c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009